

Before Starting the Special CoC Application

You must submit both of the following parts in order for us to consider your Special NOFO Consolidated Application complete:

1. the CoC Application, and
2. the CoC Priority Listing.

The CoC Special NOFO page provides HUD-approved resources to assist you in completing the Special NOFO CoC Application, including:

- Special Notice of Funding Opportunity to Address Unsheltered and Rural Homelessness
- 24 CFR part 578
- Special NOFO CoC Application Navigational Guide
- Section 3 Resources
- Frequently Asked Questions

As the Collaborative Applicant, you are responsible for reviewing the following:

1. The Special Notice of Funding Opportunity (Special NOFO) for specific application and program requirements.
2. The Special NOFO Continuum of Care (CoC) Application Detailed Instructions for Collaborative Applicants which provide additional information and guidance for completing the application.
3. All information provided to ensure it is correct and current.
4. Responses provided by project applicants in their Project Applications.
5. The application to ensure all documentation, including attachment are provided.

CoC Approval is Required before You Submit Your CoC's Special NOFO CoC Consolidated Application

- 24 CFR 578.9 requires you to compile and submit the Special NOFO CoC Consolidated Application on behalf of your CoC.
- 24 CFR 578.9(b) requires you to obtain approval from your CoC before you submit the Consolidated Application into e-snaps.

Answering Multi-Part Narrative Questions

Many questions require you to address multiple elements in a single text box. Number your responses to correspond with multi-element questions using the same numbers in the question. This will help you organize your responses to ensure they are complete and help us to review and score your responses.

Attachments

Questions requiring attachments to receive points state, "You must upload the [Specific Attachment Name] attachment to the 4A. Attachments Screen." Only upload documents responsive to the questions posed—including other material slows down the review process, which ultimately slows down the funding process. Include a cover page with the attachment name.

- Attachments must match the questions they are associated with—if we do not award points for evidence you upload and associate with the wrong question, this is not a valid reason for you to appeal HUD's funding determination.
- We must be able to read the date and time on attachments requiring system-generated dates and times, (e.g., a screenshot displaying the time and date of the public posting using your desktop calendar; screenshot of a webpage that indicates date and time).

1A. Continuum of Care (CoC) Identification

The CoC Special NOFO page provides HUD-approved resources to assist you in completing the Special NOFO CoC Application, including:

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1A-1. CoC Name and Number: MA-516 - Massachusetts Balance of State CoC

1A-2. Collaborative Applicant Name: Department of Housing and Community Development

1A-3. CoC Designation: CA

1A-4. HMIS Lead: Department of Housing and Community Development

1A-5.	New Projects	
	Complete the chart below by indicating which funding opportunity(ies) your CoC applying for projects under. A CoC may apply for funding under both set asides; however, projects funded through the rural set aside may only be used in rural areas, as defined in the Special NOFO.	
1.	Unsheltered Homelessness Set Aside	Yes
2.	Rural Homelessness Set Aside	No

1B. Project Capacity, Review, and Ranking–Local Competition

The CoC Special NOFO page provides HUD-approved resources to assist you in completing the Special NOFO CoC Application, including:

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1B-1.	Web Posting of Your CoC Local Competition Deadline–Advance Public Notice. (All Applicants)	
	Special NOFO Section VII.B.1.b.	
	You must upload the Local Competition Deadline attachment to the 4A. Attachments Screen.	
	Enter the date your CoC published the deadline for project application submission for your CoC's local competition.	07/29/2022

1B-2.	Project Review and Ranking Process Your CoC Used in Its Local Competition. (All Applicants)	
	Special NOFO Section VII.B.1.a.	
	You must upload the Local Competition Scoring Tool attachment to the 4A. Attachments Screen.	
	Select yes or no in the chart below to indicate how your CoC ranked and selected new project applications during your CoC's local competition:	
	1. Established total points available for each project application type.	Yes
	2. At least 33 percent of the total points were based on objective criteria for the project application (e.g., cost effectiveness, timely draws, utilization rate, match, leverage), performance data, type of population served (e.g., DV, youth, Veterans, chronic homelessness), or type of housing proposed (e.g., PSH, RRH).	Yes
	3. At least 20 percent of the total points were based on system performance criteria for the project application (e.g., exits to permanent housing destinations, retention of permanent housing, length of time homeless, returns to homelessness).	Yes

1B-3.	Projects Rejected/Reduced–Notification Outside of e-snaps. (All Applicants)	
	Special NOFO Section VII.B.1.b.	
	You must upload the Notification of Projects Rejected-Reduced attachment to the 4A. Attachments Screen.	
	1. Did your CoC reject or reduce any project application(s)?	No
	2. Did your CoC inform the applicants why their projects were rejected or reduced?	Yes
	3. If you selected yes, for element 1 of this question, enter the date your CoC notified applicants that their project applications were being rejected or reduced, in writing, outside of e-snaps. If you notified applicants on various dates, list the latest date of any notification. For example, if you notified applicants on 6/26/22, 6/27/22, and 6/28/22, then you must enter 6/28/22.	

1B-3a.	Projects Accepted–Notification Outside of e-snaps. (All Applicants)	
	Special NOFO Section VII.B.1.b.	
	You must upload the Notification of Projects Accepted attachment to the 4A. Attachments Screen.	
	Enter the date your CoC notified project applicants that their project applications were accepted and ranked on the New Priority Listings in writing, outside of e-snaps. If you notified applicants on various dates, list the latest date of any notification. For example, if you notified applicants on 6/26/22, 6/27/22, and 6/28/22, then you must enter 6/28/22.	10/05/2022
1B-4.	Web Posting of the CoC-Approved Special NOFO CoC Consolidated Application. (All Applicants)	
	Special NOFO Section VII.B.1.b.	
	You must upload the Web Posting–Special NOFO CoC Consolidated Application attachment to the 4A. Attachments Screen.	
	Enter the date your CoC posted its Special NOFO CoC Consolidated Application on the CoC’s website or affiliate’s website–which included: 1. the CoC Application, and 2. Priority Listings.	10/14/2022

2A. System Performance

The CoC Special NOFO page provides HUD-approved resources to assist you in completing the Special NOFO CoC Application, including:

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2A-1.	Reduction in the Number of First Time Homeless—Risk Factors.	
	Special NOFO Section VII.B.2.b.	
	Describe in the field below:	
	1. how your CoC determined which risk factors your CoC uses to identify persons becoming homeless for the first time;	
	2. how your CoC addresses individuals and families at risk of becoming homeless; and	
	3. provide the name of the organization or position title that is responsible for overseeing your CoC’s strategy to reduce the number of individuals and families experiencing homelessness for the first time or to end homelessness for individuals and families.	

(limit 2,500 characters)

- 1) and 2) DHCD oversees prevention efforts within the CoC as well as many statewide efforts including TPP in the courts. DHCD works with other systems of care, including Veterans and Elders services and our statewide family shelter (EA), to analyze data identifying the factors that lead households to homelessness. This information is used to target and identify eligibility for statewide prevention services including State programs RAFT, HCEC, and HomeBASE diversion. Diversion and prevention services in the CoC include assessment, housing search, mediation, financial assistance, support services, and discharge planning. The CoC’s prevention providers actively participate in the CoC’s planning group and advisory board. ESG RRH and prevention, are being incorporated into CE.
- 3) The Department of Housing and Community Development is responsible for overseeing the CoC’s strategy to reduce the number of individuals and families experiencing homelessness for the first time.

2A-2.	Length of Time Homeless—Strategy to Reduce. (All Applicants)	
	Special NOFO Section VII.B.2.c.	
	Describe in the field below:	
	1. your CoC’s strategy to reduce the length of time individuals and persons in families remain homeless;	
	2. how your CoC identifies and houses individuals and persons in families with the longest lengths of time homeless; and	
	3. provide the name of the organization or position title that is responsible for overseeing your CoC’s strategy to reduce the length of time individuals and families remain homeless.	

(limit 2,500 characters)

1) and 2) The Collaborative Applicant, DHCD, is the sole funder of emergency shelter (ES) for families and the primary funder of ES for individuals in the state. DHCD is engaged in significant systems change in the way it provides ES. DHCD has re-procured the entire family shelter system and in doing so, reframed the system from one that frequently pathologizes families and fosters their floundering in ES to a system that focuses on housing first. It is our hope that these changes will begin to reduce the length of time households with children remain homeless from its current average of 313 days. DHCD is developing a similar procurement for the ES system that serves households without children. To that end, it has folded the oversight of the ES system for individuals into the same unit that manages the Balance of State CoC. The intention here too, is to reframe the work in ES toward housing first. DHCD and the CoC have developed substantial RRH resources, both HUD and state funded that helps to reduce the length of time homeless. This includes new flexible state RRH resources and a realignment of ESG RRH resources that are awarded directly to ES that can be used to resolve a wide array of barriers to households ending their homelessness. DHCD, in collaboration with the Boston Housing Authority, has created the Leading the Way Home project which is issuing state permanent housing vouchers to Boston households with children who have been in the ES system the longest. Some Boston family households are sheltered in Balance of State Communities. Separately, the CoC has developed a partnership with non CoC funded housing that, accepts only eligible persons from the Coordinated Entry registry who have been homeless the longest. While this is not the manner in which our CE system typically operates, it addresses the length of time homeless for some persons. DHCD has entered into new contracts for the Emergency Assistance (EA) family shelter system, which explicitly focused on reducing length of stay. DHCD uses creative funding combinations to rapidly rehouse families experiencing homelessness, including converting the HomeBASE program into a two-year, \$20,000 benefit.

3) The CoC Coordinated Entry Specialist at DHCD is responsible for overseeing these strategies.

2A-3.	Successful Permanent Housing Placement or Retention. (All Applicants)	
	Special NOFO Section VII.B.2.d.	

Describe in the field below how your CoC will increase the rate that individuals and persons in families residing in:

1.	emergency shelter, safe havens, transitional housing, and rapid rehousing exit to permanent housing destinations; and
2.	permanent housing projects retain their permanent housing or exit to permanent housing destinations.

(limit 2,500 characters)

1) DHCD, as the collaborative applicant, and the Federal Grants Unit within it have developed and are responsible for overseeing strategies to increase the rate at which households in shelter, safe havens, and transitional housing exit to permanent housing. Primarily, we have added significant RRH resources to our portfolio through State funded resources and the addition of a new CoC funded project during the last NOFA cycle. We have requested funding in this cycle for two additional RRH projects (one specifically for persons experiencing domestic violence) that we think will further expedite households' moves from homelessness into housing. In addition, we are providing training and support of programmatic staff across the CoC, as well as being focused on data quality.

2) DHCD, as the collaborative applicant, and the Federal Grants Unit within it, have developed and are responsible for overseeing strategies to increase the rate at which households retain their permanent housing. We have focused on realigning the ESG resources available to us to be able to provide prevention resources when necessary. We have also conducted trainings for programmatic staff in trauma informed-care and motivational interviewing.

2A-4.	Returns to Homelessness–CoC’s Strategy to Reduce Rate. (All Applicants)	
	Special NOFO Section VII.B.2.e.	
	Describe in the field below:	
	1. how your CoC identifies individuals and families who return to homelessness;	
	2. your CoC’s strategy to reduce the rate of additional returns to homelessness; and	
	3. provide the name of the organization or position title that is responsible for overseeing your CoC’s strategy to reduce the rate individuals and persons in families return to homelessness.	

(limit 2,500 characters)

1) The CoC is engaged in an initial analysis of households that have returned to homelessness. By reviewing HMIS and Coordinated Entry system data, on households whose initial placement from housing was unsuccessful, as well as an analysis on the efficacy of the CoC funded projects within the continuum, we hope to better understand any underlying similarities or structural issues that might offer predicative capacity, or suggest better strategies with specific households with similar underlying issues.

2) We have focused on realigning the ESG resources available to us to be able to provide prevention resources when necessary. We have also conducted trainings for programmatic staff in trauma informed care, motivational interviewing. Finally, we have organized our Coordinated Entry processes to a) make better matches for placement the first time and b) be able to accommodate moves from one project or site to another when a move will prevent a return to homelessness.

3) DHCD, as the collaborative applicant, and the Federal Grants Unit within it, have developed and are responsible for overseeing strategies to increase the rate at which households retain their permanent housing.

2A-5.	Increasing Employment Cash Income–Strategy. (All Applicants)	
	Special NOFO Section VII.B.2.f.	
	Describe in the field below:	
	1. the strategy your CoC has implemented to increase employment cash sources;	

2.	how your CoC works with mainstream employment organizations to help individuals and families increase their cash income; and
3.	provide the organization name or position title that is responsible for overseeing your CoC's strategy to increase income from employment.

(limit 2,500 characters)

1) All CoC programs assess each project participant for any income, including employment income they currently receive as the first step in each household's service plan. While most project participants are substantially disabled and unable to work at the time of project enrollment, some stabilize over time and are able to take on work. Each project's case management staff work with all participants to regularly review their ability to work and to overcome their anxiety about a potential loss of benefits if they return to work. 2) DHCD's two contract management staff carry direct responsibility for overseeing the CoC's strategy to increase income from employment and can provide TA during monitoring for projects that are underperforming in this measure. 3) The Balance of State CoC Supervisor is responsible for oversight of these responsibilities. It should be noted that despite the efforts described above, the continuum's ongoing processes to ensure the most vulnerable are prioritized for the CoC's projects works against our ability to obtain dramatic increases in employment income. Since the vast majority of our project participants are quite disabled, substantive employment can be difficult.

2A-5a.	Increasing Non-employment Cash Income-Strategy. (All Applicants)	
	Special NOFO Section VII.B.2.f.	
	Describe in the field below:	
	1. the strategy your CoC has implemented to increase non-employment cash income;	
	2. your CoC's strategy to increase access to non-employment cash sources; and	
	3. provide the organization name or position title that is responsible for overseeing your CoC's strategy to increase non-employment cash income.	

(limit 2,500 characters)

1) and 2) All CoC programs assess each project participant for the benefits they currently receive as the first step in each household's service plan. Potential new sources are identified, and case managers aid participants in accessing other income, including assisting with applications, scheduling, transportation to appointments, and collecting documentation. DHCD, who is responsible for overseeing these outcomes, provides access to SOAR trained persons to aid projects without one, and provide TA during monitoring for projects that are underperforming in this measure. The CoC also works very closely with the SAMHSA funded Path teams who are both embedded in area shelters and conducting street outreach. PATH workers strive to connect the people they come into contact with both in shelters and in place not meant for human habitation to a variety of mainstream resources for which they may be eligible. Some of those resources are cash benefits including food stamps, unemployment and general welfare. DHCD also participates in the Commonwealth-wide Learn to Earn (LTE) initiative, designed to address cliff effects in state-funded or administered programs. 3) DHCD's BoS CoC Supervisor

2B. Coordination and Engagement–Inclusive Structure and Participation

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2B-1.	Inclusive Structure and Participation–Participation in Coordinated Entry. (All Applicants)	
	Special NOFO Sections VII.B.3.a.(1)	

In the chart below for the period from May 1, 2021 to April 30, 2022:

1.	select yes or no in the chart below if the entity listed participates in CoC meetings, voted—including selecting CoC Board members, and participated in your CoC’s coordinated entry system; or
2.	select Nonexistent if the organization does not exist in your CoC’s geographic area:

	Organization/Person	Participated in CoC Meetings	Voted, Including Electing of CoC Board Members	Participated in CoC’s Coordinated Entry System
1.	Affordable Housing Developer(s)	No	No	No
2.	Agencies serving survivors of human trafficking	Yes	No	Yes
3.	CDBG/HOME/ESG Entitlement Jurisdiction	Yes	Yes	Yes
4.	CoC-Funded Victim Service Providers	Yes	Yes	Yes
5.	CoC-Funded Youth Homeless Organizations	Yes	Yes	Yes
6.	Disability Advocates	Yes	Yes	Yes
7.	Disability Service Organizations	Yes	Yes	Yes
8.	Domestic Violence Advocates	Yes	Yes	No
9.	EMS/Crisis Response Team(s)	Yes	No	Yes
10.	Homeless or Formerly Homeless Persons	Yes	Yes	Yes
11.	Hospital(s)	Yes	Yes	Yes
12.	Indian Tribes and Tribally Designated Housing Entities (TDHEs) (Tribal Organizations)	Nonexistent	No	No
13.	Law Enforcement	Yes	Yes	Yes
14.	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer (LGBTQ+) Advocates	Yes	Yes	Yes
15.	LGBTQ+ Service Organizations	Yes	Yes	Yes
16.	Local Government Staff/Officials	Yes	Yes	Yes
17.	Local Jail(s)	No	No	No
18.	Mental Health Service Organizations	Yes	Yes	Yes
19.	Mental Illness Advocates	Yes	Yes	Yes

20.	Non-CoC Funded Youth Homeless Organizations	Yes	Yes	No
21.	Non-CoC-Funded Victim Service Providers	Yes	Yes	No
22.	Organizations led by and serving Black, Brown, Indigenous and other People of Color	Yes	Yes	Yes
23.	Organizations led by and serving LGBTQ+ persons	Yes	Yes	Yes
24.	Organizations led by and serving people with disabilities	Yes	Yes	Yes
25.	Other homeless subpopulation advocates	Yes	Yes	Yes
26.	Public Housing Authorities	Yes	Yes	Yes
27.	School Administrators/Homeless Liaisons	No	No	No
28.	Street Outreach Team(s)	Yes	Yes	Yes
29.	Substance Abuse Advocates	Yes	Yes	Yes
30.	Substance Abuse Service Organizations	Yes	Yes	Yes
31.	Youth Advocates	Yes	Yes	Yes
32.	Youth Service Providers	Yes	Yes	Yes
	Other:(limit 50 characters)			
33.				
34.				

By selecting "other" you must identify what "other" is.

2B-2.	Open Invitation for New Members. (All Applicants)	
	Special NOFO Section VII.B.3.a.(2), V.B.3.g.	

	Describe in the field below how your CoC:
1.	communicated the invitation process annually to solicit new members to join the CoC;
2.	ensured effective communication with individuals with disabilities, including the availability of accessible electronic formats;
3.	conducted outreach to ensure persons experiencing homelessness or formerly homeless persons are encouraged to join your CoC; and
4.	invited organizations serving culturally specific communities experiencing homelessness in the geographic area to address equity (e.g., Black, Latino, Indigenous, other People of Color, persons with disabilities).

(limit 2,500 characters)

The CoC uses several strategies to solicit new members in an open and transparent way. 1) The CoC holds monthly meetings referred to as Planning Group meetings, for organizations, interested parties, and homeless or formerly homeless individuals from across the CoC geography. During these meetings we regularly encourage attendees to invite others who might wish to become members. These meetings are advertised in advance via an extensive e-mail list in which we also encourage others to invite others interested in addressing homelessness including homeless and formerly homeless persons, and through a description on the CoC page at <https://www.mass.gov/servicedetails/continuum-of-care-programs-coc>. 2) CoC meetings are conducted virtually using platforms that allow for text communication as well as video, they are also accessible via telephone without the need for an internet connection. The CoC can be contacted via TYY. 3) The CoC embarked on a robust outreach effort in the past year to ensure participation of PLEE in all aspects of the CoC. This culminated in having two PLEE on our Advisory Board including one who is a YYA, and a standing PLEE Committee with real policy-making and advising power. 4) The Racial Equity Committee includes representatives of organizations serving culturally specific communities experiencing homelessness to address equity, and a priority task they are working on now is to increase participation of other organizations who also serve these communities. Our hope is that we will make more authentic progress toward addressing racial inequities by inviting these partners into our homeless work. We are confident there has been some success as one of our subrecipients in our newest DV project, New Dawn, focuses its outreach on those of middle eastern heritage.

2B-3.	CoC's Strategy to Solicit/Consider Opinions on Preventing and Ending Homelessness. (All Applicants)	
	Special NOFO Section VII.B.3.a.(3)	

	Describe in the field below how your CoC:
1.	solicited and considered opinions from a broad array of organizations and individuals that have knowledge of homelessness or an interest in preventing and ending homelessness;
2.	communicated information during public meetings or other forums your CoC uses to solicit public information; and
3.	took into consideration information gathered in public meetings or forums to address improvements or new approaches to preventing and ending homelessness.

(limit 2,500 characters)

1) The CoC uses several strategies to solicit opinions from many organizations. Decisions about CoC policy and procedures are developed in committee meetings which are advertised using a mailing list of more than 70 nonprofit, municipal, housing authority and state government partner agencies (well in excess of 150 persons, including PWLE). Annually, we undertake outreach to a wide range of interested persons, i.e. mailings to every state funded Community Veteran Services Officer and municipal library in the CoC reminding them of what the CoC is, the work it does, and inviting them to call, email or attend meetings with questions or feedback. We have embarked upon a concerted effort to understand and address YYA homelessness and have engaged YYA from the YAB to participate in the governmental structure of the CoC, and in the HUD CE Equity Initiative to better utilize coordinated entry to quickly house and serve those in our region. 2) In Planning meetings which include the full membership of the CoC, we consistently invite members to invite other organizations and PWLE to participate in the CoC at the level they are most comfortable - in committees, in meetings, and/or providing input regarding need in their area of the CoC geography. This has been particularly beneficial in two of our communities, Lowell and Lawrence, and our experiences have inspired our approach with other cities and towns in the CoC. 3) The information gleaned in Planning meetings which are open to the public, contribute to every aspect of CoC operations including policies and procedures, identifying gaps, and during the pandemic, identifying areas most at risk or least served. In addition, CoC members attend meetings hosted by the MA CoC organization which includes all CoCs in the Commonwealth. These meetings offer trainings on different strategies for addressing homelessness, best practice sharing between CoCs, and working groups such as the Racial Equity Working Group led by the MA-516 Supervisor.

2B-4.	Public Notification for Proposals from Organizations Not Previously Funded. (All Applicants)	
	Special NOFO Section VII.B.3.a.(4)	

Describe in the field below how your CoC notified the public:	
1.	that your CoC's local competition was open and accepting project applications;
2.	that your CoC will consider project applications from organizations that have not previously received CoC Program funding;
3.	about how project applicants must submit their project applications;
4.	about how your CoC would determine which project applications it would submit to HUD for funding; and
5.	how your CoC effectively communicated with individuals with disabilities, including making information accessible in electronic formats.

(limit 2,500 characters)

1) The Collaborative Applicant (CA) uses the monthly Planning meetings, extensive email list, CoC membership, and CoC newsletter to inform those in the CoC geography when the HUD NOFO or other funding opportunities, are issued, any priorities identified in the previous year which new projects could address and providing a working calendar with deadlines for all aspects of the NOFO. In Committee meetings we also discuss other organizations that may not currently be participating and how we can better engage them. We make it clear that we will assist new participants in understanding HUD regulations and requirements and how they can provide data in our HMIS, participate in CE, enter APR data in Sage, and work in esnaps. Invitations for new applicants is also stated on the request for concept papers. As a result of these efforts, we have three new participants in the CoC, and hope to have more after this NOFO is reviewed. 2) These communications also include the process for submission in esnaps along with the assurance that assistance will be provided if needed to anyone. 3) A call for concept papers was made during the Planning meeting and followed by a form sent to everyone in the email list that specifically outlined the process for new projects, and included specific questions tied to scalable new projects. Based upon the concepts submitted by CoC membership, the CoC develops new projects which are ranked and submitted with the NOFO response. If HUD makes an award to a new project, a competitive procurement (RFP) is developed seeking subrecipients to administer the new projects. 4) The procurement website is public and interested parties are able to set up alerts to receive notices in a format that is most easily accessible to them when new opportunities become available. The RFP is posted to the Commonwealth's public procurement website in PDF format to ensure accessibility.

2C. Coordination / Engagement—with Federal, State, Local, Private, and Other Organizations

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2C-1.	Coordination with Federal, State, Local, Private, and Other Organizations. (All Applicants)	
	Special NOFO Section VII.B.3.b.	
	In the chart below:	
	1. select yes or no for entities listed that are included in your CoC’s coordination, planning, and operations of projects that serve individuals, families, unaccompanied youth, persons who are fleeing domestic violence who are experiencing homelessness, or those at risk of homelessness; or	
	2. select Nonexistent if the organization does not exist within your CoC’s geographic area.	

	Entities or Organizations Your CoC Coordinates with for Planning or Operations of Projects	Coordinates with Planning or Operations of Projects
1.	Funding Collaboratives	No
2.	Head Start Program	Yes
3.	Housing and services programs funded through Local Government	Yes
4.	Housing and services programs funded through other Federal Resources (non-CoC)	Yes
5.	Housing and services programs funded through private entities, including Foundations	Yes
6.	Housing and services programs funded through State Government	Yes
7.	Housing and services programs funded through U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)	Yes
8.	Housing and services programs funded through U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ)	No
9.	Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA)	Yes
10.	Indian Tribes and Tribally Designated Housing Entities (TDHEs) (Tribal Organizations)	Nonexistent
11.	Organizations led by and serving Black, Brown, Indigenous and other People of Color	Yes
12.	Organizations led by and serving LGBTQ+ persons	Yes
13.	Organizations led by and serving people with disabilities	Yes
14.	Private Foundations	No
15.	Public Housing Authorities	Yes
16.	Runaway and Homeless Youth (RHY)	Yes
17.	Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)	Yes
	Other:(limit 50 characters)	
18.		

2C-2.	CoC Consultation with ESG Program Recipients. (All Applicants)	
	Special NOFO Section VII.B.3.b.	

Describe in the field below how your CoC:	
1.	consulted with ESG Program recipients in planning and allocating ESG funds;
2.	participated in evaluating and reporting performance of ESG Program recipients and subrecipients;
3.	provided Point-in-Time (PIT) count and Housing Inventory Count (HIC) data to the Consolidated Plan jurisdictions within its geographic area; and
4.	provided information to Consolidated Plan Jurisdictions to address homelessness within your CoC's geographic area so it could be addressed in Consolidated Plan update.

(limit 2,500 characters)

1) DHCD is the collaborative applicant and the MA non-entitlement recipient of ESG and ESG-CV. The ESG Contract Manager (CM) is embedded in the same unit as CoC staff, facilitating their easy engagement. The CoC intersects with three recipients: non-entitlement (MA) already referenced, as well as entitlements Lawrence (L), Lowell (LL), Newton (N) and Somerville (S). Members of these communities are active participants in Planning, Ranking/Review Committee, Project Evaluation, Coordinated Entry Committee, CE Equity Initiative, YHDP, and the Racial Equity Committee. 2) The CM provides info on funding use, program outcomes, and project participation in coordinated entry (CE). The CoC consults with entitlement communities during their ESG planning discussions. ESG-CV non-entitlement funding decisions were made in collaboration with the entitlement communities in the CoC's geography to ensure resources were best aligned to have the greatest impact in mitigating the impact of COVID. The CM conducts evaluations of MA funded projects and provides updates to CoC staff; L and N communicate updates to CoC staff and participate in Planning Group meetings. L & N subrecipients are participating in CE regionalization efforts to better connect participants to housing within their home communities. ESG RRH projects take referrals through CE; the CoC will invite ESG project staff to review CoC RRH policies during the upcoming year. CoC staff are working with N to improve shelter program policies on max night stays and Framingham on targeting limited outreach resources. All ESG projects utilize HMIS or comparable database and the CoC has a formal method to make CAPER outcomes available to the Ranking/Review Committee. 3) The CoC provided PIT, HIC, and CE data to all jurisdictions and updates on MA projects. 4) At DHCD, the CM participates in writing the Plan and annual updates. CoC staff participates in community needs assessments and gaps analysis planning conducted by Planning jurisdictions and their community partners.

2C-3.	Discharge Planning Coordination. (All Applicants)	
	Special NOFO Section VII.B.3.c.	

Select yes or no in the chart below to indicate whether your CoC actively coordinates with the systems of care listed to ensure persons who have resided in them longer than 90 days are not discharged directly to the streets, emergency shelters, or other homeless assistance programs.

1.	Foster Care	Yes
2.	Health Care	Yes

3.	Mental Health Care	Yes
4.	Correctional Facilities	Yes

2C-4.	CoC Collaboration Related to Children and Youth–SEAs, LEAs, School Districts. (All Applicants)
	Special NOFO Section VII.B.3.d.

Select yes or no in the chart below to indicate the entities your CoC collaborates with:

1.	Youth Education Provider	Yes
2.	State Education Agency (SEA)	Yes
3.	Local Education Agency (LEA)	Yes
4.	School Districts	Yes

2C-4a.	CoC Collaboration Related to Children and Youth–SEAs, LEAs, School Districts–Formal Partnerships. (All Applicants)
	Special NOFO Section VII.B.3.d.

Describe in the field below:

1.	how your CoC collaborates with the entities checked in Question 2C-4; and
2.	the formal partnerships your CoC has with the entities checked in Question 2C-4.

(limit 2,500 characters)

With respect to our partnership with the Massachusetts Dept. of Elementary and Secondary Education, the Homeless Education State Coordinator was a full participant in the development of the YHCP Community Plan and continues her involvement as programs were developed this year. (Still on the Advisory Board?) Three of the largest cities in the CoC are McKinney-Vento recipients – Haverhill, Lawrence, and Lowell. The Balance of State CoC communicates regularly with the Commonwealth’s Homeless Education State Coordinator on issues relating to homeless youth and young adults. The Collaborative Applicant operates the family shelter system and requires every family shelter to ensure children are in school and that each shelter is connected with the LEA and local liaison to identify and assist homeless and at-risk families. The CoC partners with a nonprofit that is the Lead Agency for the state’s child welfare agency. Education Coordinators at the Lead Agency sit in three of the five regional offices of the state’s child welfare agency and serve as a bridge between that agency and the LEA, to address the special education needs.

2C-4b.	CoC Collaboration Related to Children and Youth–Informing Individuals and Families Experiencing Homelessness about Eligibility for Educational Services. (All Applicants)
	Special NOFO Section VII.B.3.d.

Describe in the field below written policies and procedures your CoC adopted to inform individuals and families who become homeless of their eligibility for educational services

(limit 2,500 characters)

The Collaborative Applicant operates the family shelter system and requires, by contract, that every family shelter ensures children are in school. They have a joint process with the McKinney-Vento Liaisons to identify and assist homeless and at-risk families. In addition, each CoC service provider must designate staff to ensure that homeless children have equal access to all the educational resources available to non-homeless students, and to make sure the educational needs of pre-school age and school age children are met. Each designated staff person is required, at a minimum, to

- Ensure that children are enrolled in school and connected to the appropriate services within the community
- Ensure that each family with school age or pre-school age children is provided with understandable information in a language they understand about their rights to assistance from the McKinney-Vento Act as amended by the HEARTH Act. This information should include the right to have school age children enrolled immediately in school, the right to have child(ren) attend their school of origin, the right to transportation to and from their school of origin. Provide each family with the name and contact information for the district's McKinney-Vento homeless Liaison and assist the family if needed to contact the liaison. The liaison will work with each family with a school age or preschool age member to ensure students who are homeless with disabilities have access to resources available through both the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, and McKinney-Vento
- Be familiar with educational resources in the community, particularly those for pre-school age children with disabilities and other special needs children so that they can access HEALTHY START, HEAD START, IDEA, Early Education and Care, and other appropriate resources. Compliance with this requirement is confirmed when CoC staff conduct their annual monitoring of each project service households with children.

2C-5.	Mainstream Resources—CoC Training of Project Staff. (All Applicants)	
	Special NOFO Section VII.B.3.e.	

Indicate in the chart below whether your CoC trains project staff annually on the following mainstream resources available for program participants within your CoC's geographic area:

	Mainstream Resource	CoC Provides Annual Training?
1.	Food Stamps	No
2.	SSI—Supplemental Security Income	Yes
3.	TANF—Temporary Assistance for Needy Families	Yes
4.	Substance Abuse Programs	Yes
5.	Employment Assistance Programs	Yes
6.	Other	

You must select a response for elements 1 through 6 in question 2C-5.

2C-5a.	Mainstream Resources—CoC Collaboration with Project Staff Regarding Healthcare Organizations. (All Applicants)	
	Special NOFO Section VII.B.3.e.	

Describe in the field below how your CoC:

1.	systemically provides up-to-date information on mainstream resources available for program participants (e.g., Food Stamps, SSI, TANF, substance abuse programs) within your CoC's geographic area;
2.	works with project staff to collaborate with healthcare organizations to assist program participants with enrolling in health insurance;
3.	provides assistance to project staff with the effective use of Medicaid and other benefits; and
4.	works with projects to promote SOAR certification of program staff.

(limit 2,500 characters)

1) DHCD is responsible for overseeing the CoC's strategy related to mainstream benefits. This strategy includes use of the monthly newsletter, which is distributed to all CoC subrecipients, service providers, a wide array of state agencies and any other person who have expressed interest in the CoC. The newsletter includes information and updates about mainstream resources available for program participants. When the CoC becomes aware of updates, it also includes this information in the monthly CoC meeting, and contract managers notify subrecipients of changes as they become aware of them. 2) and 3) The CoC and DHCD as the CA have close relationships with the MA Dept of Public Health and Dept of Mental Health who are in fact partners in some of our renewal applications and works with each to promote SSI/SSDI outreach and access. We have a dedicated SOAR program manager who works with a number of organizations including CoC-funded entities.

3A. New Projects With Rehabilitation/New Construction Costs

The CoC Special NOFO page provides HUD-approved resources to assist you in completing the Special NOFO CoC Application, including:

- Special Notice of Funding Opportunity to Address Unsheltered and Rural Homelessness
- 24 CFR part 578
- Special NOFO CoC Application Navigational Guide
- Section 3 Resources
- Frequently Asked Questions

3A-1.	Rehabilitation/New Construction Costs–New Projects. (Rural Set Aside Only). Special NOFO Section VII.A.	
If the answer to the question below is yes, you must upload the CoC Letter Supporting Capital Costs attachment to the 4A. Attachments Screen.		
Is your CoC requesting funding for any new project(s) under the Rural Set Aside for housing rehabilitation or new construction costs?		No

3B. Serving Persons Experiencing Homelessness as Defined by Other Federal Statutes

The CoC Special NOFO page provides HUD-approved resources to assist you in completing the Special NOFO CoC Application, including:

- Special Notice of Funding Opportunity to Address Unsheltered and Rural Homelessness
- 24 CFR part 578
- Special NOFO CoC Application Navigational Guide
- Section 3 Resources
- Frequently Asked Questions

3B-1.	Designating SSO/TH/Joint TH and PH-RRH Component Projects to Serving Persons Experiencing Homelessness as Defined by Other Federal Statutes. (Rural Set Aside Only)	
	Special NOFO Section VII.C.	

Is your CoC requesting to designate one or more of its SSO, TH, or Joint TH and PH-RRH component projects to serve families with children or youth experiencing homelessness as defined by other Federal statutes?	No
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3B-2.	Serving Persons Experiencing Homelessness as Defined by Other Federal Statutes. (Rural Set Aside Only)	
	Special NOFO Section VII.C.	
	You must upload the Project List for Other Federal Statutes attachment to the 4A. Attachments Screen.	
	If you answered yes to question 3B-1, describe in the field below:	
	1. how serving this population is of equal or greater priority, which means that it is equally or more cost effective in meeting the overall goals and objectives of the plan submitted under Section 427(b)(1)(B) of the Act, especially with respect to children and unaccompanied youth than serving the homeless as defined in paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of the definition of homeless in 24 CFR 578.3; and	
	2. how your CoC will meet requirements described in Section 427(b)(1)(F) of the Act.	

(limit 2,500 characters)

4A. Attachments Screen For All Application Questions

Please read the following guidance to help you successfully upload attachments and get maximum points:

- | | | |
|--|----|---|
| | 1. | You must include a Document Description for each attachment you upload; if you do not, the Submission Summary screen will display a red X indicating the submission is incomplete. |
| | 2. | You must upload an attachment for each document listed where 'Required?' is 'Yes' |
| | 3. | We prefer that you use PDF files, though other file types are supported—please only use zip files if necessary. Converting electronic files to PDF, rather than printing documents and scanning them, often produces higher quality images and reduces file size. Many systems allow you to create PDF files as a Print Option. If you are unfamiliar with this process, you should consult your IT Support or search for information on Google or YouTube. |
| | 4. | Attachments must match the questions they are associated with. |
| | 5. | Only upload documents responsive to the questions posed—including other material slows down the review process, which ultimately slows down the funding process. |
| | 6. | If you cannot read the attachment, it is likely we cannot read it either.
- We must be able to read the date and time on attachments requiring system-generated dates and times, (e.g., a screenshot displaying the time and date of the public posting using your desktop calendar; screenshot of a webpage that indicates date and time).
- We must be able to read everything you want us to consider in any attachment. |
| | 7. | Open attachments once uploaded to ensure they are the correct attachment for the required Document Type. |

Document Type	Required?	Document Description	Date Attached
1B-1. Local Competition Announcement	Yes	Local Competition...	10/19/2022
1B-2. Local Competition Scoring Tool	Yes	Local Competition...	10/14/2022
1B-3. Notification of Projects Rejected-Reduced	Yes	Notification of P...	10/19/2022
1B-3a. Notification of Projects Accepted	Yes	Notification of P...	10/19/2022
1B-4. Special NOFO CoC Consolidated Application	Yes	Special NOFO CoC ...	10/19/2022
3A-1. CoC Letter Supporting Capital Costs	No		
3B-2. Project List for Other Federal Statutes	No		
P-1. Leveraging Housing Commitment	No	Leveraging Housin...	10/19/2022
P-1a. PHA Commitment	No	PHA Commitment	10/19/2022
P-3. Healthcare Leveraging Commitment	No	Healthcare Levera...	10/19/2022
P-9c. Lived Experience Support Letter	No	Lived Experience ...	10/19/2022
Plan. CoC Plan	Yes	Plan CoC Plan	10/19/2022

Attachment Details

Document Description: Local Competition Announcement

Attachment Details

Document Description: Local Competition Scoring Tool

Attachment Details

Document Description: Notification of Projects Rejected-Reduced

Attachment Details

Document Description: Notification of Projects Accepted

Attachment Details

Document Description: Special NOFO CoC Consolidated Application

Attachment Details

Document Description:

Attachment Details

Document Description:

Attachment Details

Document Description: Leveraging Housing Commitment

Attachment Details

Document Description: PHA Commitment

Attachment Details

Document Description: Healthcare Leveraging Commitment

Attachment Details

Document Description: Lived Experience Support Letter

Attachment Details

Document Description: Plan CoC Plan

Submission Summary

Ensure that the Special NOFO Project Priority List is complete prior to submitting.

Page	Last Updated
1A. CoC Identification	10/19/2022
1B. Project Review, Ranking and Selection	10/19/2022
2A. System Performance	10/19/2022
2B. Coordination and Engagement	10/19/2022
2C. Coordination and Engagement–Con't.	10/19/2022
3A. New Projects With Rehab/New Construction	No Input Required
3B. Homelessness by Other Federal Statutes	10/19/2022
4A. Attachments Screen	10/19/2022
Submission Summary	No Input Required



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